

# Freedom Watch

July 17, 2003

Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom

Bagram, Afghanistan

## Local counterfeit currency circulation raises awareness of Army finance battalion

Story by Capt. Monica Sneed  
126th Finance Battalion

**Bagram, Afghanistan** — There has recently been an influx in counterfeit currency circulating in the Bagram and Kabul area, specifically \$100 bills. Criminal Investigation Division (CID) and Finance would like to stress the importance of verifying cash prior to accepting it into your possession, especially when receiving \$100 bills from any means other than the finance office.

There are several items to look for that makes U.S. currency authentic: a reverse portrait watermark on the right hand side of the bill, an embedded denomination strip on the left hand side of the bill, red and blue thread throughout the bill, paper that does not peel in two and paper that passes a detector pen test.

Soldiers can check currency for all of the above except for the detector pen test.

It is a criminal offense to reproduce any U.S. currency to include photocopies. It is also a criminal offense to have counterfeit currency in your possession. Do not accept any questionable bill into your possession.

If you suspect any of your currency to be counterfeit, please contact CID immediately at 231-4730.



*Staff Sgt. Jaime Perez and SFC Marlon Daniels of the 300th Adjutant General Company Rear Detachment 1, secure a mail load at the Bagram Air Base mail office.*

## Postal service made simple

Story and photo by  
Pfc. Kelly Hunt  
4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**Bagram, Afghanistan** -- The rules may seem confusing and plenty in number, but the base postal service is making it simple for troops to send packages and letters home to their loved ones.

There are a few simple guidelines you need to remember when sending packages home, said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Marlon Daniels, 300<sup>th</sup> Adjutant General Company, Rear Detachment 1.

Items that cannot be sent through the postal service include any contraband, alcohol, pornography, religious matter that may be offensive to the local nationals, certain weapons, flammable liquid and solids, knives and sharp objects, drug paraphernalia and fireworks.

Sand, soil, rocks and untreated wood

items are strictly prohibited from entering the United States due to possible infection, said Staff Sgt. Jaime Perez, 300<sup>th</sup> Adjutant General Co., Rear Det. 1.

The types of weapons that can be shipped are limited.

"You can send antique weapons and black powder guns that are made earlier than 1898, but they have to go back registered mail on an AMC flight," said Daniels.

TA-50 may be sent as well but not without commander's approval and the shipping will be at the sender's own expense, he added.

The best bet to sending and receiving mail on post successfully and quickly is to follow the rules.

"Our guys have to visual inspect every package that goes out," said Daniels. "

People will try to send out war souvenirs, shell casings, live ammunition, maga-

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# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



*A wounded U.S. soldier holds hands with another soldier after Wednesday's attack in western Baghdad.*

## U.S. soldier killed in Baghdad convoy attack

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — A U.S. soldier was killed Wednesday in an attack on a convoy in Baghdad, bringing the number of American battle deaths in the Iraqi conflict to 148.

This surpassing the 147 killed in the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

Thirty-three of those deaths have come in attacks since President Bush declared an end to major combat operations in Iraq on May 1.

The convoy from the U.S. Army's 3rd Corps Support Command came under small-arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire Wednesday morning near the Abu Ghreib prison in western Baghdad.

Three soldiers also were wounded.

Meanwhile, in an unsuccessful attack on U.S. forces Wednesday, Pentagon officials said a U.S. military C-130 transport plane was the target of surface-to-air missile fire when it was flying into Baghdad International Airport.

Gen. John Abizaid, the chief of U.S. Central Command, said U.S. forces are facing "a classical guerrilla-type campaign."

## FBI looking into forged documents

**WASHINGTON** — The FBI is conducting a preliminary inquiry into forged documents alleging Iraq wanted to buy uranium from Niger in an effort to find out who forged the documents and why, and whether anyone tried to influence U.S. foreign policy on

Iraq, bureau officials told CNN Wednesday.

The FBI is not looking into any possible wrongdoing by the Bush administration, the officials said.

In an interview on CNN Tuesday, Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-West Virginia, who had been pushing for an FBI inquiry, disclosed that the probe had begun. Details of the probe were first reported by Newsweek.

FBI agents in the counterintelligence unit are interviewing officials from the CIA and the State Department. There are plans to dispatch agents overseas, but none have left yet.

The documents, according to officials, were first provided to Italian intelligence in late 2001. The United States did not gain possession of them until nearly a year later, in October 2002, when a journalist turned them over to the U.S. Embassy in Rome, U.S. officials said.

## Remains of servicemen found in U.S. helicopter crash in Italy

**ROME**, — The remains of three U.S. servicemen were found after a fiery helicopter crash on the Italian island of Sicily Wednesday, the U.S. Navy said in a statement.

A fourth serviceman onboard is feared dead and the search for him was postponed until Thursday morning because of darkness, the statement said.

The MH-53E Sea Dragon helicopter, carrying members of the HC-4 support squadron back to the Sigonella military base in Sicily after a training mission, crashed on land about 10 miles southwest of base at about 5 p.m. local time (11 a.m. ET), military officials said.

Italian media said the helicopter caught fire after impact, and quoted a witness who described seeing white smoke and then black smoke coming from the helicopter before the crash, which, according to the reports, is a telltale sign of mechanical failure.

## Chinese official to visit Washington for talks on North Korea

**WASHINGTON** — A senior Chinese official will visit Washington this week for talks on the nuclear standoff with North Korea that could pave the way for a three-way meeting, a senior administration official told CNN.

"We think we may have gotten some agreement on a meeting," the official said.

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo will

arrive in Washington Thursday and will hold talks with U.S. officials Friday, the official said.

China has urged North Korea to resume talks on resolving the nuclear crisis while leaving open the format and participants for such future talks, officials and Western diplomats said.

Dai just returned from a four-day visit to Pyongyang, where he met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, presenting him with a letter from Chinese President Hu Jintao. Diplomatic sources told CNN the letter proposes that North Korea participate in a combination nuclear program.



*Injured victims from the car that plowed through crowded market.*

## Car plows through market, killing 8

**SANTAMONICA, Calif.** — An 86-year-old man who drove his mid-size Buick through a crowded farmers market Wednesday told police he couldn't stop and may have hit the accelerator instead of the brake, Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts Jr. said.

Eight people were killed, including a 3-year-old girl, authorities said. The more than 55 hurt include 15 people with critical injuries, they said. Two of those critically injured are under the age of 2.

"He said that he tried to brake and he couldn't stop the vehicle," Butts said.

Police escorted the man to a local hospital where he was found to have no alcohol or psychiatric medications in his system.

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zines and weapons; those things are definitely a no-no."

There are various ways to send packages. One way is through Free Mail, an option that states any mail less than 13 ounces in weight may be shipped free of cost including letters, videotapes and voice recordings of personal nature only. This option does not extend to rolls of film or disposable cameras, said Perez.

For packages over 13 ounces, troops can choose from Priority Mail or Space Available Mail. "Priority (mail) is something that's going to be more expensive but priority gets there in two or three weeks," said Perez. Packages shipped Priority Mail are limited to 70 pounds and a combined girth not exceeding 108 inches, he added.

Space Available Mail may take longer to get to its destination, but your wallet may be better off for it, said Staff Sgt. Frank King, 300<sup>th</sup> Adjutant General Co., Rear Det. 1.

"I myself hate to spend money so I send my stuff Space Available (mail) because it really doesn't matter (to me) what time it gets there and I save a lot of money," he added. Packages sent using this option are limited to 70 pounds with a combined girth of 130 inches and usually run around \$30 to send.

A few pointers for a successful package include using sturdy boxes when shipping items and keeping addresses simple and complete. Make sure to inprocess with the post office upon arriving to post to eliminate any confusion. "Any mail that we get for a unit we don't know about, we have to return," said Daniels.

Finally, remember that the post office is a cash only office and they are trying their best to keep the troops connected to home.

"We are here to serve (the troops) but they need to patience when they come up here and try to be friendly with us," said Perez.

"Sometimes they have a bad day and they might not want to wait, but try to be patient with the clerks; we're trying our best to serve them and we only ask for that same respect in return."

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building:

"The Italian Job." Based on a 1969 Michael Caine film of the same name, thieves plan to pull off the heist of their lives by creating Los Angeles largest traffic jam ever



Tomorrow's movie will be "Eight Crazy Nights."

## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Friday</i>
<b><u>Bagram:</u></b>	<i>Mostly Clear</i> H: 99F L: 64F	<i>Mostly Clear</i> H: 100F L: 72F
<b><u>Kandahar:</u></b>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 109F L: 79F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 109F L: 79F
<b><u>Kabul:</u></b>	<i>Haze</i> H: 99F L: 57F	<i>Haze</i> H: 100F L: 64F
<b><u>Uzbekistan:</u></b>	<i>Sunny</i> H: 104F L: 66F	<i>Sunny</i> H: 107F L: 69F

*Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team*

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## Preventive Medicine team helps keep Bagram healthy

Story by Sgt. Stephanie Hall  
4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** – Life on Bagram Air Base may take some getting use to physically and mentally. Just adjusting to the food may cause some problems for incoming personnel as well as veteran inhabitants. Local conditions have the potential to harm the bodies of troops who are unaccustomed to the food, water and climate.

The Bagram preventive medicine team extinguishes those types of problems through briefings, tests and other preventive measures.

Through briefings, the PM team creates awareness by giving troops the information needed to prevent illnesses and diseases from becoming a problem. When soldiers come in, or get ready to head out, the PM team makes sure that troops are educated to the adjustments their bodies will have to endure.

“We give briefings to tell soldiers little ways they can prevent diseases like washing their hands and cleaning under their nails, said Spc. Monica Register, 1469<sup>th</sup> Medi-

cal Detachment. “A lot of it is basic stuff.”

A lot of preventing is just talking to soldiers, said Register. One tip that the PM team gives is not to eat local food. “You have a lot of people come in who are sick because they’re eating off the local economy,” she said. “Our bodies aren’t use to what the local people are use to, and we’re going to have a reaction.”

It’s those basic tips that help prevent illnesses and diseases.

“To prevent is to educate,” said Register. “If you know what the possible threats are, you can prevent them yourself. You can take personal measures to stop them.”

When it comes to community preventive medicine, the PM team goes out around base to make sure the health of Bagram’s personnel is not in jeopardy.

From testing water buffalos and inspecting the different camps on Bagram to providing the troops with Permethrin “shake and bake bags,” the PM team’s job is to nip a problem in the bud before it becomes a problem.

The “shake and bake bags” are bags you can place your uniform in along with a Permethrin-based bug repellent that repels ticks, chiggers, mosquitoes and other biting

arthropods. “When bugs land on your uniform, it almost burns them,” said Register. “It irritates them so badly they don’t want to land on you.” The 1469<sup>th</sup> Med. Det. can either provide the actual “shake and bake bags,” or they can direct you on how to obtain them, said Register.

The PM team also conducts weekly field sanitation inspections. “That’s where we go around to each different camp, and look around the camp for anything that could possibly cause diseases,” said Register.

They inspect for things “like trash piling up, which would draw the flies which would cause diseases, or standing water which would create a place for mosquitoes to breed, she said. If they do find a problem, they report that to the specific leadership of that unit, then they give suggestions on how to correct the problem.

The PM team stays focused on their mission to keep the troops healthy because “We want the soldiers to focus on whatever their specific job is,” said Register. “We take care of all the little things so they can focus on what they’re here to do.”

## Coalition Forces work closely with Afghan National Army to improve combat readiness

Story by Maj. Craig Doescher  
Combined Joint Task Force 180  
Information Operations

Elements of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, Central Corps recently have been conducting coalition training with the Afghan National Army (ANA).

A Mobile Training Team (MTT) from the U.S. Army Armor Center is overall responsible for the armor training, but it is coordinating efforts with coalition partners consisting of Romanian and German MTTs.

The Romanian Maintenance and Inspection Team is ensuring the tanks and BMPs are combat ready and are training

Afghan maintenance personnel.

The German MTT is focusing on crew level tactics, while the U.S. Army Armor Center MTT is responsible for platoon and company level training.

The training is running an eight-week program of instruction taught by instructors Army from the Captain’s Career Course and the Noncommissioned Officer Academy.

The training is focusing on tactics, techniques, and procedures.

Additionally, while this training is being conducted, members of an Embedded Training Team (ETT) from the U.S. Army’s 11<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR) act as coaches and mentors, assisting the tank bat-

alion by helping to develop its leaders and organize its command and control. To be effective mentors, members of the ETT have become part of the ANA company.

They are living and working alongside them daily.

A great deal of teamwork among Coalition members working with the Afghan Ministry of Defense is in progress to complete this program.

Lt. Col Mohammed Nasim, the tank battalion commander, summed up his satisfaction by stating he is very appreciative of the quality training he is receiving from the Coalition, and looks forward to leading a combat ready unit in the near future.



# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)

## Payton, Malone sign on dotted line to officially become Lakers

**LOS ANGELES** — True to their word, future Hall of Famers Karl Malone and Gary Payton signed contracts with the Los Angeles Lakers. And they did so at just about the earliest possible moment.

Team spokesman John Black said Malone and Payton, who verbally committed to join the Lakers at discount prices last week, signed shortly after midnight ET on Wednesday.



*Gary Payton*

A moratorium on free agent signings expired Tuesday night. Beginning at 12:01 a.m., free agents were allowed to sign contracts.

Malone, the second-leading scorer in NBA history who is considered perhaps the greatest power forward ever, signed a two-year contract worth just over \$3 million, Black said.

Malone, who earned \$19 million last season in his 18th and final season with the Utah Jazz, will earn the veteran's exception of \$1.5 million next season.

He turns 40 later this month.

Payton, five years younger, also signed a multi-year contract. He established himself as one of the NBA's finest point guards in Seattle, where he played for nearly 12 seasons before being traded to Milwaukee this past season.

The players will be introduced Thursday morning at a news conference at Staples Center.

Payton, who earned \$12 million last season, will make \$4.9 million in his first year with the Lakers.



*Will Miami and FSU meet in an ACC title game before long?*

## ACC officially asks NCAA to change rule

**RALEIGH, N.C.** — The Atlantic Coast Conference has asked the NCAA to change a rule that would allow the league to hold a football championship game.

The ACC expanded to 11 schools two weeks ago by adding

Miami and Virginia Tech, but under NCAA regulations only conferences with 12 or more teams can stage such a lucrative title game.

Three conferences — the SEC, Big 12 and Mid-American — are now authorized to hold league championship games.

Shane Lyons, an ACC assistant commissioner in charge of compliance, said the ACC filed the necessary paperwork with the NCAA on Tuesday, asking that leagues with 10 teams be allowed to play conference title games — some of which make as much as \$12 million.

The NCAA will send the ACC proposal, along with about 100 others, to the college membership in August, Lyons said.

"This is the time period we'll start gauging how the NCAA membership feels about it," Lyons said Wednesday.

A final vote by the NCAA's management council, a 49-member group with representatives from all the Division I-A conferences, could come in April, Lyons said.

It's unclear how much support the ACC proposal will gain from conferences such as the PAC-10 or Big Ten, which could also benefit from a rule change.

"We really haven't gone out and polled other conferences about it," Lyons said. "But we've gotten indications there would be some support."

If the rule is changed, the ACC would likely hold a title game in 2004 — the first season of entry for the Hurricanes and Hokies.

## Williams to continue rehab for injuries

**ESPN** — The Bulls' Jay Williams finally got out of the hospital Wednesday.

The point guard was released from Duke Medical Center where he was rehabilitating his career-threatening injuries to his knee and pelvis suffered in a motorcycle accident, the Chicago Sun-Times reported.

"His family has rented a home down there, and he is doing some rehab there now," Bulls operations chief John Paxson said to the paper. "They are still trying to decide when to have surgery on his knee. They are looking into who they want to do the surgery. We will know what's going on. But they want to be in charge of that, and they should be."

Williams, a former Duke star and college player of the year, bought a new motorcycle June 12. One week after its purchase, he slammed into a pole on Chicago's North Side, putting his promising future in jeopardy.

Paxson talked to Williams this past weekend.

"His spirits were great," Paxson told the newspaper. "The best since I've talked to him and the accident occurred. His mom [Althea]

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is like the ultimate optimist. But Jay knows it's going to be a long process."

He's had surgery twice to repair a broken pelvis, and has damaged ligaments in his left knee. He had knee surgery at the Duke Medical Center, according to his agent.

### Desired target in homer assault: Ruth

**CHICAGO** — Barry Bonds keeps climbing the home run charts, edging closer to Willie Mays' mark and drawing more and more questions about whether he will break Hank Aaron's record.

Bonds, however, is also taking aim at The Babe.

The San Francisco slugger leads the majors with 30 home runs at the All-Star break and has hit 643 in his career, putting him just 17 shy of matching his godfather — Mays — for third on the all-time list.

"Willie's number is always the one that I've strived for," Bonds said before Tuesday's All-Star Game.

"And if it does happen, the only number I care about is Babe Ruth's. Because as a left-handed hitter, I wiped him out. That's it. And in the baseball world, Babe Ruth's everything, right? I got his slugging percentage and I'll take his home runs and that's it. Don't talk about him no more."

Ruth hit 714 home runs, a mark that stood for many years until Aaron came along. Aaron finished with 755, but Bonds said "755 isn't the number that's always caught my eye."

At 38, Bonds' drive to reach Aaron has been slowed a bit by his high walk total. With each year, the daily grind of playing left field might take its toll, too. Bonds has said recently that he would welcome playing for an AL team — he's specifically mentioned the Angels — as a full-time DH once his contract with the Giants is up.

"The toughest thing about getting older is playing defense. That is where you get hurt. Guys can hit from a wheelchair," said Cubs manager Dusty Baker, Bonds' former manager. "I always thought someday Barry might be a first baseman or a DH."

### Americans on top in first women's poll

**CARSON, Calif.** — The World Cup champion U.S. national team held the top spot in the first women's world soccer rankings, issued Wednesday by FIFA.

Each of the top four teams in the rankings of world soccer's governing body — including Norway, Germany and China — were designated as the top seeds in Thursday's draw for this year's World Cup.

The other 12 teams in the World Cup tournament are Argentina, Brazil, Ghana, Nigeria, France, Russia, Sweden, Australia, Canada, Japan, South Korea, and North Korea.

The Americans had 2,169 points in the rankings determined by a mathematical formula based on results of all 3,086 international games dating back to the inaugural match between France and the Netherlands on April 17, 1971.

Norway, which defeated the U.S. in overtime to win the 2000

Olympic gold medal, was second with 2,159 points, and European champion Germany had 2,152. China, which lost on penalty kicks to the U.S. in the 1999 final, had 2,110 points.

"We're honored to be the first team to be ranked No. 1," U.S.

Soccer president Dr. Bob Contigulia said after the rankings were announced at The Home Depot Center, site of the final. "I know our players will be thrilled."

FIFA is instituting the women's rankings in an effort to boost the popularity of women's soccer, officials said.

"The bad news about the rankings - no surprises," FIFA official Marius Schneider said.

"If you have a close look at the world rankings, it's not going to stay like this.

"Any of the top teams failing to do well in the World Cup will not be able to cling on to their position.

The world ranking is likely to look quite a bit different after the Women's World Cup."

Similar ranking for men's national teams started 10 years ago. The men's rankings have drawn criticism that they are not a true reflection of teams abilities.



*Mia Hamm and the U.S. are ranked No. 1 in the world.*

*"Can I call you back honey, I'm kinda' busy right now."*



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By Kevin Kilgore

***Laugh Support***